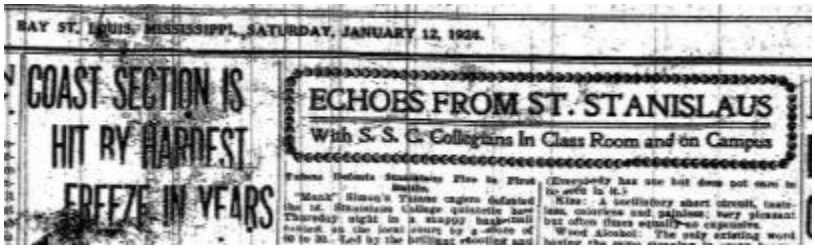
Retro #1: Bay Frozen 1924

St. Louis Bay froze over near the shore in 1924 and students at St. Stanislaus had fun frolicking on the ice. *The Sea Coast Echo* of January 12, 1924, featured an article on the first page about the hardest freeze in 21 years.


BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1924.

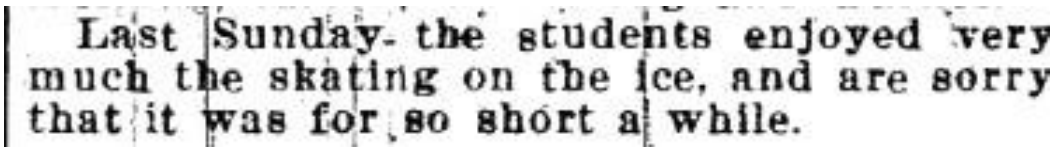
COAST SECTION IS HIT BY HARDEST FREEZE IN YEARS

ECHOES FROM ST. STANISLAUS

With S. S. C. Collegians In Class Room and on Campus

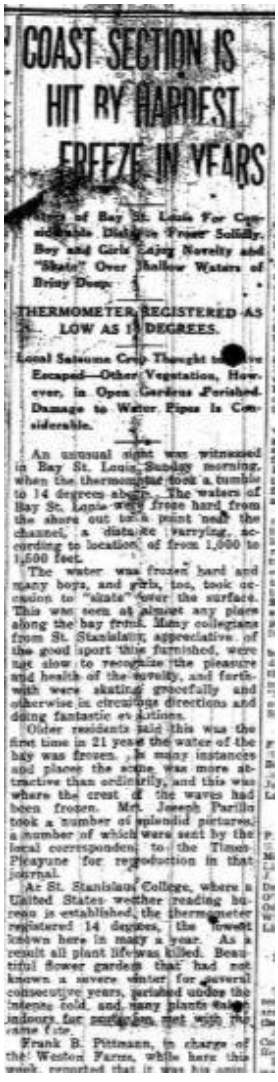
The article mentioned that the United States Weather Station at St. Stanislaus recorded the temperature at 14 degrees and that the bay froze hard from the shore out to about 1,000 to 1,500 feet. It went on to state that many boys and girls took the opportunity to "skate" over the surface. In a unique stylistic language, the newspaper journalist wrote: *"Many collegians from St. Stanislaus, appreciative of the good sport this furnished, were not slow to recognize the pleasure and health of the novelty, and forthwith were skating gracefully and otherwise in circling directions and doing fantastic gyrations."*

Right next to the news article on the front page was the weekly news from St. Stanislaus under the banner Echoes from St. Stanislaus With S.S.C. Collegians in Class Room and on Campus. Regarding the freeze, the student editor briefly noted that the students enjoyed skating on the ice:


Last Sunday the students enjoyed very much the skating on the ice, and are sorry that it was for so short a while.

A student photo album from 1924 in the Archives Room has several photos of students on the ice. Unfortunately, none of the people in the photos are identified, but they are surely St. Stanislaus students.

St. Stanislaus College can be seen in the upper right hand corner.



COAST SECTION IS HIT BY HARDEST FREEZE IN YEARS

...of Bay St. Louis For Considerable Distance Froze Solidly. Boy and Girls Enjoy Novelty and "Skate" Over Shallow Waters of Briny Deep.

THERMOMETER REGISTERED AS ... LOW AS 14 DEGREES.

Local Satsuma Crop Thought to Have Escaped—Other Vegetation, However, in Open Gardens Perished. Damage to Water Pipes Is Considerable.

An unusual sight was witnessed in Bay St. Louis Sunday morning, when the thermometer took a tumble to 14 degrees above. The waters of Bay St. Louis were frozen hard from the shore out to a point near the channel, a distance varying, according to location, of from 1,000 to 1,500 feet.

The water was frozen hard and many boys, and girls, too, took occasion to "skate" over the surface. This was seen at almost any place along the bay front. Many collegians from St. Stanislaus, appreciative of the good sport this furnished, were not slow to recognize the pleasure and health of the novelty, and forthwith were skating gracefully and otherwise in circuitous directions and doing fantastic evolutions.

Older residents said this was the first time in 21 years the water of the bay was frozen. In many instances and places the scene was more attractive than ordinarily, and this was where the crest of the waves had been frozen. Mrt. Joseph Parilla took a number of splendid pictures, a number of which were sent by the local correspondent to the Times-Picayune for reproduction in that journal.

At St. Stanislaus College, where a United States weather reading bureau is established, the thermometer registered 14 degrees, the lowest known here in many a year. As a result all plant life was killed. Beautiful flower gardens that had not known a severe winter for several consecutive years, perished under the intense cold, and many plants taken indoors for protection met with the same fate.

Frank B. Pittmann, in charge of the Weston Farms, while here this week, reported that it was his opin...

Br. Xavier Werneth, January 2025